

export target of 8.75 lakh tonnes for the year 1991-92.

[Translation]

Increase in Prices of Cement

5337. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee has been constituted to check the increasing prices of cement; and

(b) if so, the recommendations contained in the report submitted to the Government by the said Committee and the details with regard to their implementation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) A working Group has been constituted to consider measures and work out a scheme for holding the price of cement.

(b) The report of the Working Group is awaited.

[English]

Negotiations with USSR for Newsprint

5338. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation visited USSR for negotiations in regard to supply of newsprint;

(b) if so, whether the delegation met the Soviet authorities and had a number of discussions with them;

(c) if so, whether any agreement was reached with them;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the Soviet Union has agreed to supply newsprint to reduce the shortage in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). Against the Trade Plan Provision of supply of 70,000 MT of newsprint from USSR for the year 1991, STC concluded a contract in April, 1991 for import of 22, 830 MT Standard Newsprint when a delegation from Russia had visited New Delhi. A delegation from STC visited Moscow during July, 1991 to settle the price for the quantities to be supplied during July-September 1991 and to discuss other issues. For balance 47,000 MTs no firm commitment has been indicated by USSR.

Official Delegations Sent Abroad

5339. SHRI RAMNARESH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of official delegations sent abroad during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred by the Government on those delegations during the last three years separately in rupees and in foreign exchange, year-wise; and

(c) whether the Government are taking any measures to cut down such expenditure during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) and (b). The information is not centrally maintained and will have to be collected from all Ministries/Departments/Offices of the Government of India. The time and labour involved in collecting the information may not be commensurate with objective to be achieved.

(c) Government have already imposed a ban on foreign tours of Government officers with certain exceptions which, inter-alia, include tours for commercial, aid or foreign policy negotiations.

12.00 hrs.

[*Translation*]

SHRIDIGVIJAYA SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Acharya Vinoba Bhave had started Bhoodan Movement in the country by seeking land donations from big landlords and distributing the land thus donated among the landless. Lakhs of acres of land was distributed among the landless under the Bhoodan Act. I am very much distressed to point out that the Government of Bihar has taken upon itself the right of distribution of land in the State by amending the Bhoodan Act through an Ordinance thereby disassociating the name of Acharya Vinoba Bhave from the movement. It is a very serious matter. Kumari Nirmala Deshpande is sitting on dharna on this issue in Patna today where lakhs of farmers are joining her. Through you, I want to raise this matter of urgent public importance before the House and before the entire country.

[*English*]

SHRI B.N. REDDY (Miryalguda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people of Andhra Pradesh, particularly, the people of Khammam, Nalgonda, Warangal and Telengana were shocked to hear from the Minister of Water Resources that there is no water available in Godavari river. It overflows every year and sweeps the villages which are there on both sides of the river.

As a matter of fact, the then Minister Shri B. Shankaranand, in the Eighth Lok Sabha and the other authorities, proposed that this project should be included in the Seventh Five Year Plan to the then State Government, led by Shri N.T. Rama Rao.

The authorities of the Ministry of Water Resources clearly established the economic viability and also clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Even the planning and financial aspects were also cleared by the same authorities. Moreover, according to the State Government's Report which was submitted at a Meeting of the Members of Parliament on June 6 said that the Expert Committee had finalised its Report and established dependable water availability.

So, my only request to the Government of India is that they should sanction the Second Stage of Sriramsagar Project, which includes extension of Kakathiya Canal from 284 km. to 347 km. which would irrigate nearly five lakh acres.

SHRI E. AHAMAD (Manjeri): Mr. Speaker, Sir the Air India flights from Bombay's Sahar Airport to Gulf countries are totally inadequate with the result that the passengers who are to go to Gulf countries are put to great hardship and difficulty.

I am given to understand that the seats are already booked for the Air India Flights upto 20th of September. It is causing great inconvenience to the passengers. They have to reach these countries for taking up jobs.

Due to inadequacy of flights, they are losing their jobs and also, their visas are expiring.

Therefore, I request the Government, through you to arrange additional flights immediately from Bombay's Sahar Airport to Gulf countries, like Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Muscat, Doha, Baharain, Jeddah, Riyadh and Kuwait. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazaribagh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the condition of roads in Bihar is very bad. For the work that was taken up from Hazaribagh (*Interruptions*) to Bokaro, not a single paisa has been sanctioned by the Central Government and, as a result, the situation has

turned worse from bad. You know that the longest road in the country known as Grand Trunk Road starts from Calcutta and passes through Delhi. Due to non-availability of funds, condition of this road has also worsened. Thousands of vehicles run on this road daily. The Central Government is giving discriminatory treatment to the Government of Bihar. Not even one kilometre of road has been declared as highway in the State since 1974 nor the Centre is allocating any funds for the maintenance and doubling of roads. Therefore, I urge the Central Government not to give discriminatory treatment to the State Government of Bihar and consider sanctioning funds for construction of new roads.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY (Ranchi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the trains that were cancelled during the Gulf War in Bihar, as elsewhere in the country, have not been restored so far. Train No.463/464 Hatia-Khadagpur passenger train which connects Arrah to Ranchi and the bi-weekly train No.8631/ 8632 Hatia-Varanasi Express which runs via Bokaro-Ramgarh have not been restored as yet whereas the trains cancelled elsewhere in the country have been restored.

Therefore, I would request the Central Government to restore the aforesaid two trains at the earliest so as to provide communication facilities to the people of these areas.

[English]

SHRI T. J. ANJALOSE (Alleppy): Hundreds of fishermen in Kerala received R.R. notices against the pending loans taken from the Cooperative Societies and the Nationalised Banks.

Due to heavy monsoon, fishing work has almost come to a standstill and their families are on the verge of starvation. It is very difficult for them to repay the existing dues immediately. I urge upon the Government to give instructions to the concerned authorities to stop all R.R. proceedings connected with the loans of fishermen in

Kerala and to take steps to waive the loans of the fishermen.

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTH (Silchar): I draw the attention of the Government of India towards a very serious matter threatening the integrity and security of the country. Since long lakhs and lakhs of infiltrators have been illegally entering the territory of India crossing Bangladesh border. So far, in spite of repeated warning from different quarters, the Government have not paid any heed to it. But, at present, the problem has come to the forefront particularly in West Bengal. The illegal infiltrators fashioned themselves as Mohanjines maintaining a regular office, holding press conferences, staging demonstrations on the streets of Calcutta. They are further taking agitational programmes including postering, distribution of leaflets publicly admitting their illegal infiltration and demanding citizenship of India and other privileges. The West Bengal Government failed to discharge its responsibility of upholding the Constitution by arresting those infiltrators who violated the law of the land.

The Government of India should take up the matter with all seriousness to maintain safety, integrity and security of the country. It is not a fact that this problem of infiltration has got the shape of national problem?

If the Central Government fails to take stern action in this regard, the future of our Motherland will be further gloomy.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Bikramganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you. I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government to its short-sighted policy towards Bihar. The present policy of supplying Bitumen to the State of Bihar is impracticable from every angle and is harmful to the State from financial point of view also. This is so because the supply of Bitumen to other States is being made either from the processing plant in the same state or from the

neighbouring State, but Bihar is the only state to which the supply of bitumen is made from Haldia. As a result of this wrong policy on the part of the Central Government, the Government of Bihar has to waste an amount of Rs. five crore every year. Barauni Oil refinery Processing Plant is located in Bihar. Therefore, I would urge the Central Government to make the Barauni Processing Plant as the supply centre for the supply of Bitumen to Bihar State or supply should be made direct from Haldia in order to save Bihar from the loss of Rs. five crore which it incurs every 9 year. Orders to this effect may please be issued soon.

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL (Godda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 300 students get admission to engineering course in B.I.T. Mesra in Ranchi. Previously, this institution was under the control of Ranchi University, but later on its control was transferred to Darbhanga University. 250 students from all over the country get admission to this institution of Ranchi of them, only 50 students are taken from Bihar. Out of these 50 students, only 5-10 students are covered under the Tribal Sub-Plan. Due to this, there is resentment among the people as the local students do not get priority in admission to engineering course whereas as many as 250 students from all over the country manage to get admission.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, under Article 242 of the Constitution, it is the responsibility of the Central Government to provide protection to the people covered under the Tribal Sub Plan. I demand that they should be given their rightful dues. Therefore, the Central Government should issue directives to the effect that 50 per cent seats in engineering course in B.I.T., Mesra are reserved for the students of tribal belt consisting of 14 districts. I would request the leader of the House, hon. Shri Arjun Singh who is also the Minister of Education to give sympathetic consideration to this demand and stop the injustice that is being done to the local students in B.I.T., Mesra in order to contain the resentment among the people.

[English]

SHRI MRUTYUNJYA NAYAK (Phulbani): In the State of Orissa the districts of Ganjam, Kalahandi, Koraput, Phulbani and Bolangir have been severely affected by cholera epidemic as also Kala Azar, gastro-enteritis and meningitis. As the State Government has not adequately provided medicines and medical facilities the death toll has increased and it has reached more than one thousand. I would request the Government of India to immediately send a team of doctors with adequate medical facilities and medicines.

[Translation]

SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI (Ghazipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been a vast expansion of the nationalised bank in the rural areas following the Bank Nationalisation. At the time of bank nationalisation, the Government of India had set forth an objective that deposits in the rural branches of these banks would be spent on the development of backward areas of that region, but that was not to be. Most of the deposits in these banks are being spent in providing assistance to big cities and heavy industries. Thus, the deposits of the farmers in rural areas are being utilised by the industrialists or the industrial belts to expand their industrial empires. In this way, the set objective of development of backward areas is being totally neglected.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Eastern U.P. is one such instance. Through you, I would request the hon. Minister of Finance to make a provision under which 70 per cent of the deposits of the farmers in the nationalised banks in rural areas of Eastern U.P. are spent on the developmental activities of the concerned areas. Here too, priority should be given to agriculture and small industry.

[English]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in our country, since independence, in other parts either the rail-

way facilities have increased or they have not increased; they are where they were. There is only one part in the whole country where the railway services have steadily gone down. They have not increased nor remained static. That is a major part of North Bihar, the Maithili speaking region. People from the west of Kosi from Nirmali, Marauna and other block Saharsa and Supaul have to travel up to 300 kilometres to reach. Their district headquarters at a distance of only 6 to 7 kms. at a crowfly distance.

Similarly the railway line from Bagaha to Chhitauna, which was breached by the river Gandak, has not yet been bridged even though it was inaugurated in 1976 by the then Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi.

Last year a budget provision of Rs.4 crore and 9 lakhs had been made for extending the broadgauge line from Samastipur to Darbhanga. This year, it has not been made. To add insult to injury, six pairs of trains - two pairs from Darbhanga to Jaynagar; two pairs from Darbhanga to Narkatiagang and two pairs from Samastipur to Nirmali and Lauka Bazar - were suspended last year on the pretext of anti-reservation stir and they now stand cancelled.

The people are feeling that because the Congress(I) had not been voted in the Lok Sabha elections in any of the constituencies, a revenge had been taken upon the people by the Central Government (*Interruptions*) Even the formally inaugurated Sakri-Hasanpur line has not yet been constructed. (*Interruptions*) Sir, last year in the Budget, a sum of Rs. 4 crore and 9 lakhs was provided for extending the broadgauge line from Samastipur to Darbhanga. But this year only Rs. 1000 is provided in the Budget (*Interruptions*)

I wish the Railway Minister corrects this discriminatory approach. (*Interruptions*) On the pretext of anti-reservation stir, they had cancelled six pairs of trains in a small area, which is most densely populated. Sir, this is a major issue. I, through you, Sir, urge upon the Railway Minister, The Government of

India and the Leader of the House - the people are feeling extremely discriminated - to do something in this regard, before it is too late.

SHRI R. SRIDHARAN (Madras South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister for Railways a very important representation that I had received from the people of my area near Chrompet Railway Station on the Madras Beach-Tambaram Electric section.

The Railways have constructed steel girders between the railway track and the road occupied by vegetable and flower venders and also near the houses along the road. The road belongs to the Alandur Municipality and hence people are now finding it difficult to purchase their daily needs. The college students are finding it difficult to go from their houses to the college, since the very road is blocked by heavy steel girders. It is also alleged that the Railway Police in Chrompet station are collecting money from the vegetable venders every day and cases are booked against them in a very illegal manner.

I would like the Minister of Railways to kindly remove the steel girders with immediate effect which can bring peace to the local population who are very much agitated.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI RITA VARMA(Dhanbad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the difficulties being faced by the Hindi speaking people of West Bengal.

Sir, a large number of Bihari labourers are working in Calcutta and hill areas of West Bengal, especially, tea plantations. In some areas, they outnumber Bangla speaking people. Most of them belong to backward classes, Harijans and Adivasis. They cannot speak any language other than Hindi. Hindi is not only their mother-tongue but is also one national language. I am very distressed to point out that such a large population is being deprived of their right to get education

through the medium of their mother tongue.

Education is not only a State subject, it is a subject in the Concurrent List also. I hope that our colleagues, especially those who are ever ready to start a crusade against social injustice would also lend their voice to us, as we are particularly committed to removing the grievances of Harijans, Adivasis and the people belonging to the backward classes. They have a right to get education through the medium of their mother-tongue.

The Government of West Bengal take no interest in imparting education through the medium of Hindi. The number of middle schools imparting education through Hindi medium are very few in number and so far as Higher education is concerned, there is no arrangement at all. Higher education can be received only in Bangla or English or at certain places in Urdu also, that means that higher education can be received even in Urdu, but not in Hindi. Proper encouragement should be given to Hindi in West Bengal.

I would request that steps should be taken to open such schools and colleges where education could be imparted through Hindi medium. Hindi should be taught in schools and colleges compulsorily. Arrangements should be made to impart training through Hindi medium in Technical Training Centres also.

I would like to repeat that it is not the problem of the rich and upper class people. They prefer to educate their children through English Medium only. I would like to draw your attention to those poor labourers who want their children to be imparted education in their mother-tongue and it is their right also.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Kindly allow me for a minute. I think, it was her maiden speech and so I did not interrupt her. Her information is that there

are no Hindi schools where, according to her, Hindi speaking people are more than the Bengali speaking people. West Bengal is the only State in the country where Bengali is not the compulsory subject. We have got even our literary missions. We are teaching not only Bengal but also Hindi, Urdu, Oriya. This is the position. I think, she has been misinformed. Even then I request her to kindly give us a list of the places-villages, areas-where she thinks that opportunity to learn Hindi is not being given, and also what is the percentage of the people there.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am pleased that the hon. Member from Bengal has given an assurance in response to the information furnished by the member and he will be given a list of the places where education is not being imparted in Hindi medium.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We are proud that every facility is being given there (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mother tongue is the medium of instruction in our State.

[English]

SHRI GANGADHARA SANIPALLI (Hindupur): I come from Anantpur District of Andhra Pradesh which is a drought prone area. In this entire season we got just 175 mm of rains which is just sufficient for sowing seeds and that too only in some areas. In majority of areas farmers did not even sow seeds. The major rainfed commercial crop, that is groundnut, is going to be an utter failure. About a sum of Rs. 300 crores will be lost by the farmers in this district only from this crop. The ground water level in general is decreasing at a very alarming rate. Practically all the tanks and wells are dried up.

People are facing acute shortage of drinking water. Sorry plight of cattle is still more heart-moving.

Cattle is having neither sufficient water nor fodder. Large scale migration of labour has already started from villages. Our State Government, inspite of repeated requests and representations from us, is reluctant to take strong measures and see that the situation there improves. If the Central Government does not realise the gravity of the situation and come up with suitable measures, the possibility of starvation deaths cannot be ruled out. I hereby request the hon. Prime Minister to visit our place and see the sorry plight of farmers personally and take immediate temporary and permanent measures in this district in order to save the people from this severe drought.

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY (Krishnagar): Despite the assurance given by the Prime Minister recently that India would not succumb to the international pressure on Intellectual Property Rights, it is reported in the press that Government of India under U.S. pressure has agreed to review all existing legislations concerning IPR and is moving in that direction very fast. The United States has already invoked Super 301 because India does not provide adequate patent protection. They are pressing for a solution to the entire gamut of IPR which will include patents, trade marks and trade secrets. Now, it is a shame that Government of India has decided to bow down before the US imperialism to reverse the earlier stand of the country on IPR at the cost of our nation interest and prestige of our country.

MR. SPEAKER: Now you are using very strong words without knowing what they have done.

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: This is a very serious and dangerous thing.

MR. SPEAKER: Not this way.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: I

would, therefore, demand that Government must come out with a statement immediately stating all the facts of their secret deal.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dattatraya Bandaru wants to raise a very interesting matter!

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU (Secunderabad): Sir, I draw the attention of the Government to the news item in the Indian Express dated 22.8.1991 captioned " Defence Services open to fairer sex ". The Government decision is a welcome step, but I have apprehensions about the whole recruitment. Since the reservation orders will not apply to service posts, the women candidates belonging to the weaker sections, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes, will be denied of fairer chances. Further, when the UPSC is out of the scene, the convent educated girls of the Air Marshals and Admirals will have better chances.

I appeal to the Union Government to convert these service posts into civil posts and bring under the purview of the UPSC so that the reservation policy will also be applied to the weaker sections of the society.

MR. SPEAKER: You want to convert service posts into civil posts.

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN (Amroha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring the following to the notice of the Minister of Human Resource Development, that an amount of \$ 1,27,800 (Rs. 57.51 lakhs) was raised by the Cricket Control Board of India through sale and advertisements in the Brochure Printed in England during the Indian Cricket Tour to England in June, 1990. It seems from the report published in Indian Express today.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Chauhan, you will pay attention to what I am saying. If you are saying anything against any Member, first let me have that information. You give that information to the Member and then raise it. I am not allowing that thing to be raised.

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: Sir,

this is not against any Member. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You please give that information first to me, then I will allow.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I know where it is leading to. You have to inform me and the Member only then you can raise it. I will explain to you in my Chamber as to what can be done in such matters.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roserā): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today I would like to draw your attention once again to the incident of killing of a person belonging to the Scheduled Caste and the attitude of the Government and its media towards it. You might have read in today's newspaper that in Rusdan village of Gujarat, which comes in Vijaypur Taluka in Mehsana district, people poured Kerosene over a 45 years old Dalit and threw him into the fire. There can't be more shameful act than this. Yesterday this House was informed that the Police Officer ascended the stairs of the temple just to save himself from rains, but he was done to death then and there. Yesterday, I had said in this House that seven persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes were killed in Tamil Nadu as they were going to put up a portrait of Baba Saheb on the occasion of his birth anniversary. Our colleagues from Andhra Pradesh know that in spite of mass killing of Harijans, no action was taken by the Government in Tsundur. Above all, on the one hand we are angry over the Government all the same we have doubts about the intentions of the Government also. It is mentioned in all newspapers of today. I express my thanks to all the newspapers, which have condemned yesterday's incident. The leader of the House has also condemned the incident. Door-darshan and Radio are the media of the Government. This act has been condemned unanimously by all groups and you also shared the sentiments of the House. The leader of the House said that he would

discuss it with the Prime Minister, and the Prime Minister would invite the Chief Ministers of all the States and issue directions in this regard, so that such incidents are not repeated. Not a single word was said by government media about such a big incident and such a big assurance. Since I had raised the matter and you took it lightly and said that this matter should not have been raised. Since then I have been watching that the Government media are not taking up the issues of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Weaker Sections deliberately. The attitude of Door-darshan and Radio is anti-dalit and anti-weaker sections. This issue was discussed for three days in this House, but this was given no coverage at all by the Government media. Such a big issue was raised, a large number of members raised it, but not even a single line was given about that. Not only that, I would like to tell Shri Arjun Singhji that yesterday morning, a group of 60 M.Ps belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from Congress and the Opposition both-including Sarva-Shri Buta Singh, Mukul Wasnik and Kumari Shailaji and members from B.J.P., C.P.I., C.P.M. and Janata Dal had held a meeting. We decided that we would take up such issues jointly through Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes Parliamentary Forum. It was decided that such issues should be raised by rising above party politics. We had discussion for two hours through this forum. A statement was issued about this meeting, but not even a single sentence was mentioned about this meeting. I had told yesterday also that we have doubts about the intentions of the Government. Therefore, I would urge upon Shri Arjun Singh through you, that this issue may be taken seriously, because he is not a Minister, but a responsible leader of the House. This malady is growing like cancer. This matter may be taken up seriously lest the poor and the suppressed people may lose faith in non-violent means and they may be compelled to take recourse to violence. Since you are the leader of the House, we would urge upon you to condemn it in clear terms and the Chair should also share our feelings. Now-a-days no state is left where the life of the poor

and that of a person belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes might be secure. The Government media is meant for raising the issues of the upper class, but it does not bother about the issues of the poor. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): After making such a good point, the mixing up of other points seems to be irrelevant (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I am saying only that thing which is good. The Government should not only condemn it comprehensively, but the people should also come to know that the Government is condemning it.

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK (Buldana): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter which has been raised is a very serious matter. It has been felt in the current session that such incidents are continuously taking place every day in every nook and corner of India. This issue is raised in the House almost daily and the Government is continuously saying that it is giving serious attention to the problem, but, it could be seen from the newspapers of today, that there is a news from Gujarat. Similarly in Varanasi some Harijans are fleeing away from some villages. Such news have appeared in today's newspapers. In the incident which took place in Maharashtra, a Police Officer while he was ascending the stairs of the temple to save himself from the rains and while he was doing so, he was stoned to death. I would like to submit to the Government that, a week or ten days back, the hon. Home Minister had said that a meeting of the National Integration Council would be held here. I would like to know whether any date has been fixed for the meeting of the National Integration Council or not? If a date has not been fixed, the Government should fix a date for it immediately and a meeting of National Integration Council may be held. As Shri Ram Vilas Paswan said that a meeting of 60 M.Ps belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was held yesterday in which SC

and ST M.Ps from all parties were present there and it was decided in that meeting that another meeting of SC and ST members from all parties would be held on 5th of the next month in which a memorandum would be drafted and presented to the President and the Prime Minister. But it is not the responsibility of SC and ST M.Ps alone, nor of this House alone. There is a need to summon all the Chief Ministers to Delhi and hold a meeting. Such incidents of atrocities on Harijans are being committed day in and day out and the assurances to check such incidents are also given almost daily that such incidents would not be allowed to recur, but even then such incidents are taking place continuously. I would urge upon the Government that the Government should fix a date for the meeting of the National Integration Council today itself and its meeting should be held before the end of the current session.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, this is a very very important matter. Only yesterday, the Leader of the House expressed the Government's concern. We took it to be a genuine expression of concern on behalf of the Government. But most inhuman, barbaric and uncivilized incidents are taking place where people are losing their lives because they belong to a particular caste or a particular community. My reaction yesterday was - where are we going? which country are we living in? Obviously, we feel totally ashamed that such incidents are taking place. But, as we see that at least on these issues, there is no partisan consideration. Everybody, from all sections of the House, expressed his concern. Demands are being made legitimately that strongest possible action will have to be taken against those who are guilty so far as these inhuman crimes against humanity are concerned.

I do not want to mention now as to how this is taking place, repeating at so many places, particularly in vulnerable areas, to avoid controversy. But, what is the step that

is being taken by the Government excepting some ministerial announcements? How the people are being mobilised for this? Where is the effort? We have to go to every area, every village where such types of crimes are taking place. There is a concern expressed that so far as the incidents that have taken place in Andhra Pradesh are concerned that nobody from Centre has visited the place. The House discussed the serious incidents for hours together. But where is the concern shown? What is the administrative action that is being taken?

Therefore, merely saying that we shall take action will not do. As Shri Mukul Wasnik has correctly said, every day Government is giving assurances but every day such incidents are taking place. The Government's assurance is losing its meaning and it does not help the people. Another important matter has also been raised. A very important instrument of media like the Television and Radio is not even projecting the concern that is expressed by the House, by a Cabinet Minister who is the Leader of the House. Where is the utilisation of this media? Therefore, we would like to know what the Government is doing. There has to be an all-pronged attack and a very important media instrumentality should be properly utilised. Therefore, we join with Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and Shri Mukul Wasnik to reiterate that the National Integration Council has to be called out and the Government should take actual steps. Mere verbal assurance will not do.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karolbagh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, when a discussion was going on in the House about the incidents of the atrocities on the oppressed class, I had drawn the attention of the House to this problem that it has almost become a convention that a discussion about the incidents of atrocities on Harijans is held in the House and by doing so we think that we have fulfilled our duty. When the discussion about the incidents of atrocities was going on in the House and even the discussion had not concluded, the reports of atrocities on Sched-

uled Castes in Andhra Pradesh had appeared in the newspapers.

Very recently people belonging to Scheduled Castes were massacred in Gujarat, Kerosene was sprinkled on them and they were thrown into the fire. The recent incidents are more serious than those incidents, because during the discussion about such incidents of atrocities, the hon. Home Minister had made a statement that he would tackle such incidents properly and such incidents would not be allowed to recur in future. Only yesterday, the leader of the House assured that keeping in view the feelings of the House some way out would be found. But it appears to me that some conspiracy is going on and people want to show that even if a number of times the matter is discussed in the House and despite so many assurances of the Government, incidents of atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes would continue to grow, because stern action is not taken against those responsible for such incidents.

I urge upon the Government that a meeting of the National Integration Council should be convened immediately and this issue should be discussed in its meeting. I also support the views expressed by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan who says that there is no relation whatsoever between the words and deeds of the Government. It appears that the Government is saying one thing and doing something else. In spite of giving repeated assurances in the House and the Government being committed to tackle the situation and taking steps so that such incidents do not recur, such incidents are happening almost every day.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like you to use your good offices and instruct the Government to see where the shortcomings are and how could these be removed. Otherwise a day will come when the youth belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes would take to violence when they would see that their rights are not being protected through non-violent means and it is all because of the wrong policies of the Govern-

ment. The Country is facing threat on this account and it could be detrimental to the interests of the country. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like you to intervene in the matter, otherwise there could be serious consequences. *(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI (Bhadrak): You should at least make some sort of comments.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Please sit down, he is doing it.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: I know. *(Interruptions)* But, Sir, let the Honourable chair give some sort of Direction.

(Interruptions)

There should be some sort of comment or direction from the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: At least you don't give me the direction, allow me to do my work.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to inform the House with regard to the points to which Shri Paswan, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Shri Kalka Das and other hon. Members of the House drew the attention of the House yesterday that I had apprised the Hon. Prime Minister of these points yesterday evening. Today he has written to all the Chief Ministers and probably he would invite them for a meeting soon after this session is over to discuss this matter and find the steps through which it could be effectively dealt with. All of you would agree that the prime responsibility lies with the State Government and the Centre can do little in the matter. We cannot take direct action and can only help by sending your suggestions to the concerned quarters. I

would like to repeat once again that action has to be taken by the State Government and the Hon. Prime Minister has already decided to call a meeting of the Chief Ministers in this connection.

I would like to submit that neither there is any lack of will nor any ill intention and we would try our best to deal with the situation effectively and bear in mind the suggestions of the hon. Members.

They might have heard with keen interest what Shri Paswanji has referred to about means of communications. I fully trust him and would therefore request the Minister of Communications and Minister of Information and Broadcasting to think seriously over the matter and take action to improve the situation effectively.

[*English*]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Sir, neither the Prime Minister nor the Home Minister have found time to go to Andhra Pradesh where nine persons were butchered. *(Interruptions)* Mere lip sympathy will not do. You must show your real concern.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

Well, we all know that this matter is serious and it is very good that we are giving enough attention to this matter. The Central Government has clearly come forward saying what they propose to do. I think the State Governments and the Central Government have to put their heads together and find a method of controlling these atrocities and injustice which is being done to our brothers and sisters in different parts of our country. I think proper coverage and publicity through all media in a correct perspective also will help us in highlighting what is happening in the country and controlling the forces which are responsible for perpetuating and perpetrating it.

I think, in a proper manner steps would be taken in all areas.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a rising apprehension that the Government of Uttar Pradesh proposes to bypass the judicial process and take over the disputed premises in Ayodhya. The Government have been maintaining a very ominous silence about it and that is adding to the apprehensions of the people. We know their apprehensions and can understand what the Government of Uttar Pradesh is up to, because they have made their plans very clear in their manifesto as well as in various declarations after they came to power. But, we would like to know from the Government, which has maintained a very discreet silence, as to how they propose to tackle the situation.

Sir, I would like to take one more minute to say that the judicial process was activated in 1987 by a joint decision of the Central Government and the State Government, because no point of agreement could be found to serve as the basis for an agreed settlement and therefore, it was decided to expedite the judicial process. That process has been going on and it should be expedited further. But, supposing there is this bypassing of the judicial process, this cutting short, something done from the back-door, we would like to understand from the hon. Minister and the Government as to what they propose to do and how they propose to tackle the situation. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, I think this matter was raised yesterday also. We should know the stand of the Government on this matter. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I think, the Government probably wants to respond to this matter. Please take your seats.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: On behalf of the Government, Shri Arjun Singh is responding to this matter.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, maintaining discreet silence itself is not a sin and speaking out of turn is not, by itself, a virtue.

MR. SPEAKER: I endorse it fully.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Sometimes, we need to stand and be conted.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: When that time comes, I can assure you we will not be wanting.

Sir, I want to say one more thing. This is an issue which, definitely, is exercising the minds not only of the hon. Members of this House, but of the large sections of people in this country and all of us inside the House and outside are concerned that this issue, which somehow had be deviled the relations between the people of this country, should be tackled in a manner so that it is done peacefully. If it is not possible mutually, then it would be done according to the legal process and this is the position of this Government. It had been the position and will remain the position. I do not want to anticipate a situation and spell out a line of action. That is not the correct way to go about it. I can only say that we all believe that whoever is responsible for running the Government in Uttar Pradesh cannot be blind and totally oblivious to the larger interests of the country and they would keep in mind that whatever they do, does not, in any way, disturb the peace and tranquility of this country and does not set this country on the road to self-destruction. I am sure they will keep that in mind and not allow desperate situations to arise, because when desperate situations arise, desperate remedies have to be thought of. That should not happen.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be Laid on the Table. Shri Chidambaram. (*Interruptions*)